

He has not only spoken out on the care for the elderly, the sick and the poor of New York; he has acted.

He has used not only his pulpit to teach the word of Christ but also the true meaning of those words.

He was one of the first Church officials to recognize the horrible toll of the AIDS epidemic and used his moral authority to open New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Claire's Hospital. Additionally, he also provided compassion through words and actions and made it known that everyone was a child of God and was deserving of love, compassion and respect.

He continued to work to strengthen the relations between those followers of his flock and the followers of the Jewish faith, recognizing the power of the inter-faith alliance.

He is a man who has dedicated his life to helping lift others up, all the while never seeking out worldly possessions or public accolades. These are some of the reasons I support this Honor today. But there are others—many more personal.

In my family, three of my relatives received the divine calling to dedicate themselves to the Lord's work. My uncle, Father John Crowley, is currently the Pastor of St. John of the Cross Church in Vero Beach, FL. Another uncle, Father Paul Murphy is a Catholic priest in Philadelphia. A member of the Vincennes order, he, like Father Crowley, has been inspired by Cardinal O'Connor and view him as a personal figure of inspiration. My aunt, Sister Mary Rose Crowley, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame, is based in West Palm Beach, and she too, has reflected upon the power, grace and compassion of the Cardinal.

These people, all dedicated to the teachings of Christ, have received both encouragement and guidance from the Cardinal. The Cardinal has always served as a role model of conduct and solid Christian behavior for my relatives and for thousands of other Catholics, not only New York but throughout the nation and the world.

As the leader of the New York's Catholics, he has also been influential in establishing and maintaining a series of high quality, Catholic schools throughout the city. As a graduate of parochial schools, I have been brought up with the values of the Cardinal and the Bible, and I hope that I will be able to instill these same values of family and faith into my son, Cullen, who was baptized recently in the Catholic faith.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to this great man, John Cardinal O'Connor.

May God Bless him as he undertakes his next challenge, that of battling cancer.

WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs

Improvement Act of 2000, which I have introduced with several of my Colleagues, amends the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell Johnson Act regarding the use of funds to administer those Acts. This bill will maintain the integrity of the two Acts by ensuring that funds used for "true administration" will be used responsibly and that funds not used for "true administration" will pass to the States for restoration projects that benefit fish and wildlife as required under the law. It will ensure that the millions of excise tax dollars from guns, ammo, archery equipment, and fishing equipment paid by sportsmen and sportswomen will go to the States for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects.

During three Congressional oversight hearings in 1999, the House Committee on Resources uncovered numerous spending improprieties involving wildlife and sport fish administrative funds by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Federal Aid. As much as one-half of the "administration" money may have been improperly used. This was the first time since Pittman-Robertson was passed in 1937, and since Dingell-Johnson was passed in 1950, that the administration of these Acts has been examined by Congress. Officials testifying from the non-partisan General Accounting Office were critical of the management of administrative funds by the Division of Federal Aid, stating that "the combined experience of the audit team that did this work represents about 160 years worth of audit experience. To our knowledge, this is, if not the worst, one of the worst managed programs we have encountered."

The trust has been broken between the sportsmen and sportswomen who fund the Acts through excise taxes and the Fish and Wildlife Service who were responsible for administering the Acts. At each of these hearings we learned that administrative funds were used for expenses unrelated to the administration of the Acts. We learned that administrative funds that were used for administration of the Acts were not used responsibly. We learned that if the administration of these Acts is not properly implemented, the State wildlife and sport fish restoration suffers.

Some internal changes have already been made by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Division of Federal Aid to address the abuses of administrative funds and we are encouraged that steps are being taken toward fixing the problems. But these are only steps, they are not permanent. Legislation is needed to clearly explain how administrative funds can and cannot be spent. In addition to taking initiative to make changes in the Division of Federal Aid, I am pleased that the Administration has been involved in working with us on this bill. The millions of dollars sportsmen and sportswomen have paid in excise taxes have to be protected. This bill offers them that much needed protection. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this measure and I intend on taking deliberate action to move this bill in my committee in March.

THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY ACT (H.R. 6)

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted on the Marriage Tax Penalty Act (H.R. 6). Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye." The bill passed the House with strong bipartisan support by a vote of 268–158.

I firmly believe that this Congress should enact some common sense tax reform—including ending this unfair burden on married taxpayers. Since coming to Congress, I have cosponsored legislation to address this inequity because I know that this is something we must fix. It is unfair that some couples pay an average of \$1400 more in taxes simply because they are married. So I am pleased that we can offer this common sense relief for American families.

But while I would have supported this bill, we can improve upon it as it makes its way through the legislative process. Specifically, the benefits of the bill must be targeted more directly to middle class families who are currently saddled by the marriage penalty. This will bring relief to those Americans who most need it, and free up additional resources for other critical priorities—paying down the national debt, modernizing Medicare, saving Social Security, and making investments in education, health care, the environment, and national defense.

S.S. OSAN, DELHI MASSACRE VICTIM, DENIED JUSTICE BY INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with yet another example of how India violates the basic human rights of its minorities and ignores the rule of law.

Sukhbir Singh Osan is a journalist in Punjab. He has exposed many scandals and acts of tyranny on the part of the Indian government and the government of Punjab. His family suffered losses in the 1984 massacre in Delhi, which were organized by government-inspired mobs while the Sikh police were locked in their barracks and the state-run TV and radio called for more Sikh blood. He has now filed suit for his rights as a 1984 riot victim.

Sukhbir Singh Osan earned an LL.B. degree from Punjab University seven years ago but it is being withheld from him because he has exposed corruption and brutality. For his aggressive reporting, the Indian government has damaged his career in an arbitrary and vindictive manner.

Mr. Osan's situation proves that in "democratic" India the law is subservient to the wishes of those in power. The people in power routinely violate the law for their own benefit. How can a country be a democracy when the government routinely subverts the rule of law?

It is clear from the treatment of Mr. Osan and from so many other incidents involving the abuse of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities that the only way these minorities will secure their freedom to live in peace, dignity, and security is by achieving their freedom from India. In this light, it is appropriate for the United States to take action to protect the rights of the minority peoples of the subcontinent.

If India cannot observe the rule of law even for a victim of the 1984 Delhi massacres, then why should it receive any aid from the American taxpayers? We should stop that aid, subject India to the sanctions that their terrorist rule deserves, and throw the full weight of the U.S. Congress behind a free and fair, internationally-supervised plebiscite to decide the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations of South Asia.

Until these things are done, there will continue to be others mistreated like Sukhbir Singh Osan, and worse. America is the beacon of freedom. How can we accept this?

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Burning Punjab article on Mr. Osan's plight into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Burning Punjab News]

RIOTS RUINED FAMILY, JUDICIARY HIS LIFE

Chandigarh—Sukhbir Singh Osan in a Civil Writ petition No. 14940 of 1999 filed in the Punjab & Haryana High Court has pleaded that—"he became a 'November 84 riot victim' neither by his own act nor by birth since he was just 14 years old when riots took place. He further pleaded that the failure of the executive and the law & order situation and also the failure of various provisions incorporated in the Indian Constitution, after the assassination of the then Indian Premier Indira Gandhi was the reason which placed him under the category of 'Sikh Migrant Family & Riot affected person'". The petition has been fixed for hearing on November 15, 1999 before the Chief Justice Arun B. Saharia and Mr. Justice Swatantar Kumar. Osan has demanded 'justice' in this petition.

"Punishing those who were responsible for riots in November, 1984 and to grant certain concessions to the victims of these riots are two different things?", Sukhbir Singh Osan has questioned the division bench of the High Court. The petition elaborates, how a riot victim in Sukhbir Singh Osan was harassed, his career was ruined in an arbitrary and vindictive manner and that too right under the nose of judiciary shows that justice in India is not a virtue which transcends all barriers. It also proves that law never bends before justice on the land of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, Sri Guru Teg Bahadar and Sri Guru Gobind Singh.

Why Sukhbir Singh Osan's result/degree of LL.B. course is being withheld by the Panjab University for the past about seven years is a pathetic story because he in the capacity of a journalist tried to expose corruption, high-handedness and other irregularities at different levels in the University affairs through his dispatches in a leading daily during 1991.

Narrating chronology of his 'ordeal' Sukhbir Singh Osan in a writ petition filed by him "in-person" in the Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that in August, 1990 he was granted admission in LL.B. course under the Riot affected (November, 1984) category in the Department of Laws,

Panjab University, Chandigarh. Being a journalist he in good faith published certain news items pertaining to nefarious activities including corruption, high-handedness, moral turpitude and other irregularities at different levels in the university affairs. Smitten by a news-item, Sukhbir Singh was asked by Dr. R.K. Bangia, Prof. & Chairman, Department of Laws in a written communication on May 29, 1991 "to furnish some authentic proof as evidence of the facts as stated by you" in the news-item "Teen Hazaar Mein Uttirne Karva Date Hain Kanoon Ki Pariksha" otherwise strict action would be taken against him. On September 30, 1991 in an arbitrary and illegal manner his admission was cancelled when he was studying in the 3rd semester of the LL.B. course, since Dr. J.M. Jairath, Dr. R.K. Bangia and Dr. R.S. Grewal were got annoyed due to news reports filed by S.S. Osan. Sukhbir Singh Osan approached the Punjab & Haryana High Court against the Panjab University, but the High Court relegate him for his remedy to Civil Court. The Civil Court of Chandigarh after four years of hectic activities of examining evidence and witnesses termed the admission of Sukhbir Singh Osan as genuine and according to law. The judge in his 27 page order also declared Sukhbir Singh Osan as 'November 84 riot victim'. It was perhaps the first ever case in the history of India and Indian judiciary, that a riot victim was asked to prove that he is a 'November 1984 Riot affected person' and Sukhbir Singh Osan has proved the same in the civil court. Here it is pertinent to mention that Sukhbir Singh Osan along with his family migrated from Madhya Pradesh to Punjab in the year 1985 after November 1984 anti-Sikh riot which broke through out India after the assassination of the then Indian premier Indira Gandhi. Such was the agony of Sukhbir Singh Osan that he has to recall all those days, which his family has suffered during 1984.

The miserable plight of Sukhbir Singh Osan proves that in India law and judiciary are not meant for those who obey them but are subservient to those who outrage the modesty of the very concept of law & justice and that too, in connivance of those who are considered to be the custodian of law & justice. Will the law of India be able to punish those who have ruined the life of Sukhbir Singh Osan? Whither Indian Judiciary?

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ARTHUR WILKOWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a veteran political leader of our 9th Congressional District. Arthur Wilkowski, former state legislator and judge, passed from this life on November 30, 1999 at the age of 70 years.

After teaching for many years and eventually earning a law degree from the University of Toledo in 1959, Art began his foray into politics the hard way. He ran unsuccessfully for state representative in 1960 and Toledo City Council in 1963. In 1969, after gaining appointment to the Ohio House of Representatives he battled his way to re-election, and held the position until his resignation in 1983.

Throughout his tenure in the Ohio General Assembly, and later during brief stints as a federal judge and magistrate, Art was widely regarded as among the finest of orators and his speeches were well known. Former colleague Barney Quilter, Speaker Pro Tempore, recalled "When he spoke on the floor of the House, everybody listened. They knew they would know more than when the speech started." Current Ohio House Minority Leader Jack Ford "was in awe of the former legislator's talent" though he did not serve with him. "He would do everything from a little Shakespeare to language from the Founding Fathers," Representative Ford said.

Art Wilkowski championed causes near and dear to him, regardless of controversy or popularity. He worked tirelessly on many different issues, but was most devoted to the creation of the Ohio Civilian Conservation Corp and the development of a high-speed passenger rail system. In his tribute to Art, Mr. Quilter noted, "He took his ideas and turned them into law in Columbus. He was probably the brightest person I knew in the legislature." Perhaps the highest praise comes from long-time consumer advocate and community leader Mike Ferner who commented, "He was uncommonly courageous. A lot of people will remark on his oratorical skills, but to me, his courage and integrity were more significant."

Choosing to resign from the Ohio General Assembly in July of 1983, Art wrote that "public service was the fulfillment of all my boyhood dreams and aspirations, as such related to a productive life." Though his presence and skill were sorely missed in the Ohio House of Representatives, he was able to resume his law practice in Toledo's Polish Village taking on more legal work on behalf of clients who could not pay a cent for his brilliant work, serve an appointment to the 6th District Court of Appeals, and write. He was serving on the Lucas County Probate Court as Magistrate at the time of his death.

Art Wilkowski was genuine and generous, and a man committed to his ideals. He will be missed not only by his family, but our community as well. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his children Kathy, Craig, and Keith, grandchildren, and sisters Helen, Wanda, and Olga. May fond memories of the precious gift of Art's life sustain them.

PROVIDING OUR VETERANS DIGNITY IN DEATH: THE VETERANS BURIAL BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, since the early days of this century, it has been Federal policy to insure a proper, dignified burial for veterans who are qualified to receive a VA pension or compensation. Today, I will introduce legislation to insure that after years of inadequate support this policy is actually implemented.

Ever since veterans were first provided with a burial allowance following World War I, the benefit has been slowly eroding. If the original